

## Senior Year Timeline

### **August**

- ✓ Turn in updated senior student questionnaire/resume to Guidance.
- ✓ Schedule Fall ACT, SAT or SAT Subject tests if needed – [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/>
- ✓ Check websites of colleges considering for admission requirements and deadlines.
- ✓ Check your senior schedule to make sure you are taking the classes recommended by your top-choice colleges (ex: some colleges prefer 3 years of Foreign Language over 2 credits required to graduate in Tennessee).
- ✓ Continue to research colleges and scholarships. Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines.

### **September**

- ✓ Request applications from all the schools to which you might apply.
- ✓ Continue to research colleges and apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Check to see if the colleges you have selected use the Common Application – create an account if necessary  
<https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>
- ✓ Create your own chart of deadlines. Pay particular attention to early action or early decision and preferred application deadlines.
- ✓ Request letters of recommendations, especially if you are applying early.
- ✓ **ATHLETES** – register with the [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) if interested in playing college sports. A transcript request form MUST be downloaded from the NCAA website and given to the Guidance Office.

### **October**

- ✓ Continue to research colleges and apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines.
- ✓ Complete your applications if you are using early action or early decision - Visit the website below for information on early action or early decision  
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/guidance/applications/early>
- ✓ Request letters of recommendations and official transcripts, if needed.
- ✓ Let your counselor know if you have applied to any colleges.
- ✓ CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE becomes available online. (A small number of highly selective schools use this for determining nonfederal student aid). Check to see if the schools you are applying to use the CSS PROFILE. Application is available at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

- ✓ **PARENTS**: Request a FAFSA ID (personal identification number) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) so that you can fill out the FAFSA in October. This is the application for any gov't aid including the HOPE scholarship.

## **November**

- ✓ Continue to research and apply for scholarships. Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines.
- ✓ Make sure you've submitted all parts of your applications if you are applying to colleges with November deadlines or for early decision.
- ✓ Keep track of all application components: applications, test scores, letters of recommendations, transcripts, etc. An incomplete application could affect your chances for admission.
- ✓ If you have written college application essays, ask a teacher or two to look over and make suggestions - don't wait until the last minute. Let your counselor know if you have applied to any colleges.
- ✓ Request letters of recommendation and/or official transcripts if needed.
- ✓ Keep focused on your GPA – it is easy to get distracted from academics during this application time.

## **December**

- ✓ Study for semester exams. (The accumulated grades from this semester are the next things that a college evaluates for your application).
- ✓ Complete your applications for regular admissions.
- ✓ Make sure you've had your ACT or SAT test scores sent to colleges that require them.
- ✓ Confirm that your letters of recommendation have been sent.
- ✓ Let your counselor know if you have applied to any colleges.
- ✓ If you have written a college essay, ask a teacher or two to look over it and make suggestions - don't wait until the last minute.
- ✓ Confirm that official transcripts have been sent to colleges selected.

## **January**

- ✓ Request that 1<sup>st</sup> semester transcripts and grades be mailed to colleges that need midyear reports.
- ✓ Continue to research and apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Set goals for your last semester to finish strong. Colleges can revoke offers if your grades drop.

## **February and March**

- ✓ If you submitted a FAFSA, you should receive the Student Aid Report (SAR). Carefully look it over for accuracy. Errors could cost you thousands of dollars.
- ✓ Contact colleges that did not send you a confirmation of your application.
- ✓ Don't put off applying to colleges with rolling admissions or late deadlines.
- ✓ Some acceptance letters may arrive – but don't panic – many decisions are not mailed until April.
- ✓ If you receive an acceptance letter, carefully compare financial aid offers and visit campus before making final decision.
- ✓ Continue applying for scholarships.

## **April**

- ✓ Notifications about admittance and financial aid packages for private colleges and universities are usually mailed to students on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists – let your counselor know where you have decided to attend.
- ✓ Apply for housing and orientation for the college you choose.
- ✓ If you have ruled out any colleges that have accepted you, notify them. This is a courtesy to other applicants and it will help colleges manage their waiting lists.

## **May**

- ✓ May 1<sup>st</sup> is usually the final date to make decision on which college to attend. Mail deposit to the college of your choice. Reply promptly or you may lose your acceptance. Do not place a deposit with more than one college; it is unethical and you could be dropped by both colleges.
- ✓ Present Senior Thesis
- ✓ Send thank you letters to everyone who helped you in the application process. Let your mentors and recommenders know the results of your college search.
- ✓ Request that final official transcripts be sent to college selected.
- ✓ Take AP exams if your college gives credit
- ✓ Graduate - Congratulations!